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ACT schools still keep more students to year 12: ABS

ACT schools continue to keep more students to year 12 than the rest of Australia's schools, according to a report released today from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

In 2006, ACT schools had the highest retention rate for years 7-12, at 89%, compared to the national average of 75%. The ACT has had the highest rate every year for the last ten years.

Government schools have the majority of students (59% or 35,076 students), however this is 12% fewer than in 1996. Non-government schools have seen a 14% increase in student numbers since 1996.

There were 139 schools in the ACT as at August 2006; 95 government and 44 non-government.

Government primary and secondary schools in the ACT had fewer students per full time equivalent (FTE) teacher than non-government schools.

Government primary schools had 13.8 students per FTE teacher - two students less than the national average; non-government primary schools had 17.5 students per teacher, the highest student/teacher ratio in Australia.

Government secondary schools had 11.9 students per FTE teacher; non-government had 12.8.

Further information can be found in *ACT Stats* (cat. no. 1344.8.55.001).

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